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PHORTICUS COLLARIS STÅL: A NABID NEW TO EASTERN NORTH AMERICA (HETEROPTERA: NABIDAE)

In the course of investigating the Heteroptera fauna of North Carolina I have collected *Phorticus collaris* Stål, a nabid previously unrecorded from east of the Mississippi River. This paper is presented to alert other collectors of Heteroptera to look for this uncommon and little-known species in their state and curators to look for it in their collections.

Since Stål's (1873) description of *P. collaris* from Texas, this little-known species has been reported from only one additional locality. Champion (1899) recorded *P. collaris* from Teapa, Mexico; a town located in the state of Tabasco in southern Mexico. The genus *Phorticus* is widely distributed throughout the world with 4 species known from South and Central America (Harris, 1928).

On 23 July 1992, I collected a single male of *P. collaris* at a black light in Raleigh (Wake Co.), North Carolina. Additional collecting at lights, approximately twice weekly for the remainder of the season yielded no additional specimens. The following year on 2 August 1993, I collected a single female again at a black light in Raleigh. Additional collecting yielded no further specimens in 1993, 1994 or 1995.

Phorticus collaris Stål
Fig. 1

Phorticus collaris Stål 1873: 109.

Redescription. Oblong, thickly clothed with more or less erect, long, light brown setae. Head and scutellum black. Pronotum black except for yellowish brown triangular spot extending from collar to middle of anterior lobe and median vitta on posterior lobe, acetabulum yellowish brown. Antennae black; rostrum with basal segment black, distal segments yellowish brown. Hemelytra with basal halves of clavus and corium and an area on disc of corium yellowish brown; apex of clavus and corium black; veins of clavus and corium punctate; membrane black except area bordering apex of corium and wing margin; veins distinct. Legs and abdominal venter yellowish brown.

Head with eyes large, sparsely yet distinctly pilose; ocelli prominent, widely separated and nearly in contact with eyes. Collum broadly exposed, shiny. Thorax granulose, appearing velvety. Pronotum with punctate transverse impression. Scutellum with sides sinuate, apical half swollen, disc bifoveate. Meso- and metapleuron with distinct median carina. Anterior femora strongly incrassate, armed with a ventral spine near middle and denticulate from there to apex. Anterior tibiae strongly widened apically, ventrally denticulate, with a distinct spongy fossa at apex. Abdomen with basal segment distinctly keeled medially; basal margins of segments punctate.

Measurements (in mm). Length 3.53–3.56, width of abdomen 1.23–1.33; head length, 0.47–0.49, width 0.47, vertex 0.19–0.22; antenna length, I, 0.22–0.23; II,

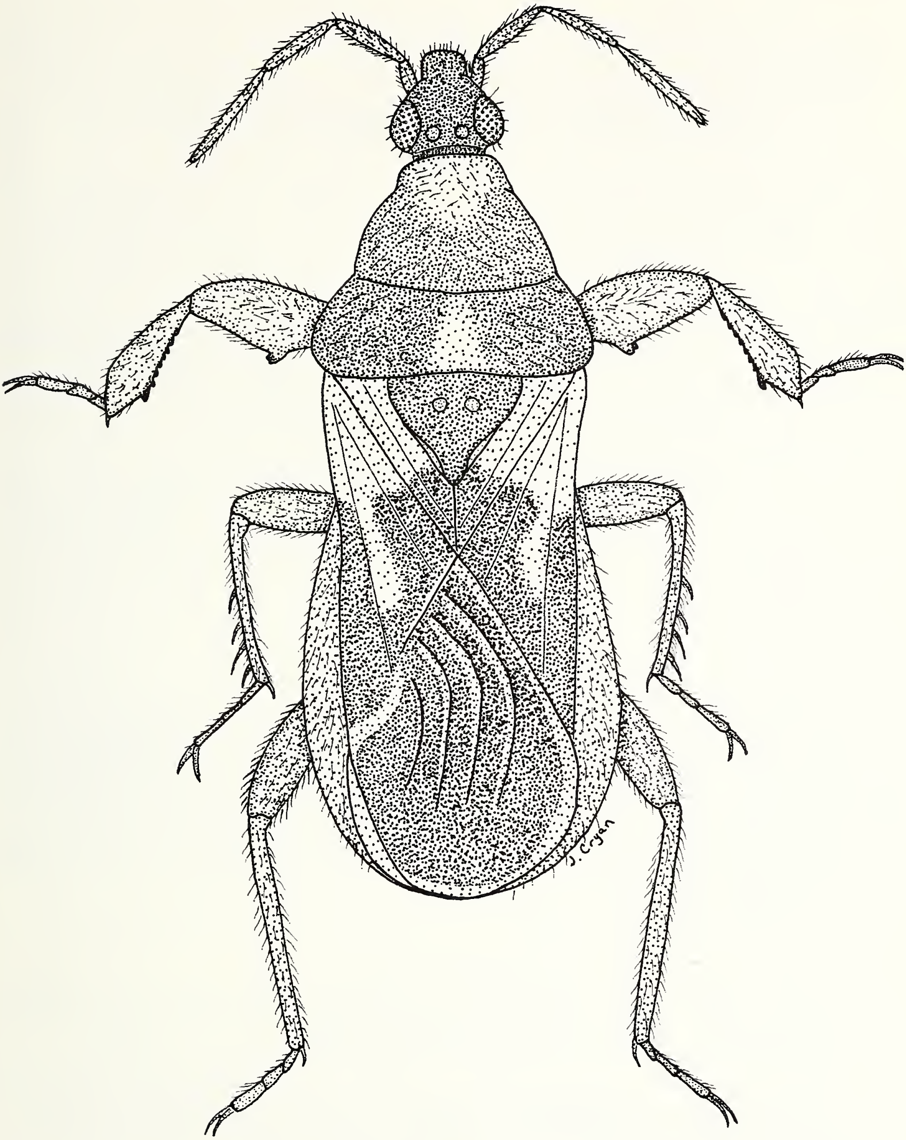

Fig. 1. *Phorticus collaris* Stål, dorsal habitus.

0.43; III, 0.44; IV, 0.53–0.56; rostrum length, I, 0.20–0.23; II, 0.54–0.56; III, 0.38; IV, 0.19–0.20; pronotum length, 0.99–1.01, humeral width, 1.14–1.19.

New Distribution Records. The following new records, extending the known range of *P. collaris,* are based on my personal collecting and material housed in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. (USNM) and the Texas A&M

University Insect Collection (TAMU). Voucher material of the North Carolina specimens has been deposited in the North Carolina State University Insect Collection (NCSU).

NORTH CAROLINA: Wake Co., Raleigh, 23 July 1992 (1♂) and 2 August 1993 (1♀), collected at blacklight (NCSU). TENNESSEE: Hamilton Co., 24 June 1943 (1♂), 23 August 1943 (2♂), and (1♂) no date (USNM). TEXAS: Brazos Co., College Station, 10 October 1928 (1♂), 12 October 1928 (2♂), 5 November 1928 (1♂, 1♀) all collected at light traps; Hidalgo Co., 20 May 1930 (1♂), light trap, Weslaco, 20 May 1930 (1♀), 30 May 1930 (1♂), light trap, 5 June 1930 (1♀), light trap, 15 June 1931 (1♀) (TAMU).

Discussion. The above discription is based on the two North Carolina specimens. The specimens from North Carolina were compared with material determined as this species by H. M. Harris (no determination date). The Texas specimens differ from the North Carolina specimens in being more brown than black. This color difference is most likely due to fading in the older specimens over time.

This species is easily distinguished from the other American prostemmines by its small size, 4 segmented antennae and the presence of a ventral median keel on the basal abdominal segment. Both *Alloeorrhynchus* Fieber, 1860 and *Pagasa* Stål, 1862 have 5 segmented antennae and lack the median ventral abdominal keel.—*R. L. Blinn, Department of Entomology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7613.*

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